

SENDS 1,044 READERS TO THE COMMONER

From a Kansas Committeeman: I am herewith enclosing you a list of 1,044 short term subscriptions, to whom I desire that you send *The Commoner* regularly till the close of the campaign.

The Christian College

The Christian college occupies a more important position today than ever before, because the necessity for moral development increases with the extension of our educational system.

The mind is a splendid servant but it is not worthy to be the Master of the Man. The heart, not the head, must occupy the throne, if the life is to be what it ought to be. As a rudder built for a fishing boat is impotent to guide a modern merchant ship, so a heart development which might safely guide an undeveloped mind is impotent to direct the highly trained intellect.

The necessity, therefore, for a larger, broader, deeper spiritual life is the imperative need of today, and the need can not be fully supplied by schools and colleges from which religious training is excluded, for morals rest upon religion—not upon a creed but upon man's sense of responsibility to God. The development of morals can not be made incidental; it must be a part of the plan. Religious tests can not be applied in institutions supported by public taxation, and, as a result, we find that irreligion is being taught under the guise of philosophy. Professors who would rebel against the application of biblical tests to themselves, have no hesitation in undermining the faith of students who come from Christian homes by attacks upon the Bible and its teachings. The college period, therefore, instead of qualifying the student for life on a high plane and with the promise of big results, sometimes shatters his ideals and sends him out with the instability of the agnostic or with the sneer of the infidel.

What is to be done? The small Christian college, with its lofty aims and its noble purposes, is engaged in a struggle for existence. Its endowments are insufficient and it makes a precarious living from year to year, wiping out its deficits by an annual appeal to friends. If we look the situation squarely in the face, we find that the principal cause of failure is to be found in the fact that the small college has undertaken a task that is becoming more and more impossible. It is trying, unsuccessfully, to compete with the big universities, state and private.

When a representative of a small denominational college calls upon Christian parents to solicit students, he is met with the answer that the children want the prestige of a diploma from a larger institution, and the parents are so anxious to encourage the children in the obtaining of an education, that they do not feel like risking the effect of a refusal to gratify what seems to be a very plausible ambition.

It might as well be understood that the small Christian college can not rival the big institutions as a finishing college. Each of the denominations, of course, has one or more large institutions with a prestige equal, or nearly equal, to the prestige of the state institutions, but this is not true of the great majority of the denominational schools. They are attempting to do what they can not do, and, because they attempt the unreasonable, they are falling behind in the race.

There is a place, however, which the small Christian college can fill, and it is really a more important place than the position to which it has aspired. The critical time in life is covered by the years during which youth merges into manhood and womanhood; and nothing except spiritual guidance is sufficient to direct the student's steps aright during these years. If the child enters school at six, it will generally finish the eighth grade at fourteen. Then comes the high school period, generally covering the years from fourteen to eighteen, and then follow the four years of college life, bringing the student to graduation at twenty-two. A few of the more precocious students may graduate at twenty-one

—a still smaller number at twenty. If the student is backward, or the school period is interrupted, graduation may not take place until twenty-three, twenty-four or even twenty-five. But, generally speaking, life's impulses and purposes become fixed in strength and direction while the student is nearing the end of the high school period, or during the earlier years of the university course. If the Christian college can take the student at this time and exercise a sympathetic supervision during, say, four years, the foundation will be laid upon which to build a substantial character.

Why not, then, include the Christian college in our school system by making it a junior or intermediate school instead of a finishing school? The name, Academy, is as appropriate as Junior College; they convey the same idea, namely, of a school that is neither the beginning nor the end of the educational period.

If co-education is questionable at any period, it is at this period, when early attachments may divert attention from study and dwarf educational growth. The junior and senior years of high school bring boys and girls, or shall we call them young men and women, together at a very susceptible age. If they fall in love, the five or six years intervening between them and the completion of a college course seem a long time, and many yield to the temptation to abandon school before finishing. It is just at this period that a separate school for boys and girls may offer some advantages, as shown by the fact that these separate boarding schools are practically the only schools that are self-supporting. Parents will pay for that which they feel they must have, and for that reason many children are taken out of the public schools at this period and sent to boys' schools or girls' schools. While this is more common in the case of girls, the reason is scarcely less strong in the case of boys.

Is there not an opportunity here that has not been fully improved? Can not the church, with great advantage, encourage the establishment of the boys' school to cover this period? It need not be a large school. In fact, the small school has some advantages over the large one. In the first place, there can be MORE small schools and thus the schools can be brought nearer to the parents and a larger number of communities supplied. An educational institution is an inspiration to a community and most of its students come from the immediate neighborhood. In a school of, say, two hundred, the students will find a sufficient collegiate companionship to develop the social side of their natures, and yet they will not be so numerous as to lose the close personal contact with the instructors; and, what is also important, they will not divide up into groups, separated by pecuniary lines. Education to be complete must fit the student for life, not merely for study, and intimate intercourse with instructors who have a spiritual vision and a real Christian sympathy, is a part of the education which can not be over-estimated.

Here is a field for the philanthropist—not the millionaire, but the independent business man, whether he be a prosperous financier of a small city, or a successful professional man, merchant or farmer. He can give enough to put up a hall which will bear his name, or one of the few buildings that such an institution would require, and he can thus make himself a part of an institution which will go on and on throughout the years, influencing lives that may mold the destiny of the nation.

The enormous gifts and bequests of the wealthy to big institutions should not discourage those able to make only modest contributions. A multitude can give as the widow gave her two mites, and verily they shall receive their reward. There is scarcely a county which could not easily afford such an academy—and

who can measure the influence of such a school on the morals of a community and the welfare of a nation? Every big denominational university needs "feeders" of this kind scattered over the territory tributary to it.

Such an institution would take the student over the line between the high school and the university, the place where so many drop out. By the time the student finished such an academy, he would be within two years of a university diploma and would then be likely to complete his education. His feet would be fixed upon the solid rock; the foundation would be laid for a Christian character; and he would be prepared to take up the studies of the last two years of the university with an understanding of the relation which physical science bears to the science of "How to Live."

In the university, he would associate with young women with ambitions similar to his own and whose tastes would be congenial; and he would then be able to select with more intelligence and with greater certainty a real helpmate in his life work.

Is it not worth while for our Christian educators and our Christian philanthropists to consider the wisdom of multiplying these intermediate Christian academies as training places for the development of Christian manhood and womanhood?

W. J. BRYAN.

A GOOD PURCHASE

The purchase of the Danish islands is good; excellent. And now let the Columbian treaty be ratified. Panama was much more valuable to us, and Columbia, because of republican opposition, has received nothing yet. Why does not Candidate Hughes urge the republicans to do justice to Columbia.

"CAN YOU BEAT IT?"

When one reads the violent and abusive speeches of the ex-justice of the supreme court he wonders whether Colonel Roosevelt could have done worse. No wonder the Colonel writes the woman, "You work for me when you work for Hughes."

Iowa Democracy's Victory

The democracy of Iowa has won a great victory—a victory for the party because it is a victory for the home and for good government. On another page will be found the platform adopted by the democratic convention, especial attention being called to the following plank:

"We commend the stand of our candidate for governor upon the liquor question, and it being a fundamental principle of democracy that the people shall rule, we favor the resubmission of the prohibitory amendment to the people, and pledge ourselves, if given the power, to so submit it. We further favor such legislation as may be necessary, if any, for the effective enforcement of the present prohibitory laws."

Candidates Meredith and Clarkson and National Committeeman Marsh deserve great credit for the success of the effort to free the party from the baleful influence of the liquor interest and put it in a position to represent the hopes and aspirations of the people of Iowa. The democratic party can now go before the voters of Iowa and make its appeal to the best element in the state; it can now pledge itself to serve the whole state and labor for the welfare of all. Here's to Meredith and Clarkson and the entire ticket. And here's to the democracy of Iowa; she deserves a place in the front rank in the great fight ahead of us.

W. J. BRYAN.